

C1  
pipetting cycles. Magazine reuse inevitably requires laboratory personnel to frequently empty and refill them with fresh pipettes. This has been found to be a time consuming, inefficient and cumbersome procedure, but one that was deemed necessary because of the belief that only steel magazines could provide the rigidity required to resist deflection during the pipetting process.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims ~~2~~ and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims ~~1~~ and 4-7 as follows:

C2  
1            1.        (Amended) For use in an automated pipetting system having a pipetting  
2 chamber with a generally U-shaped ledge, a pipette tip magazine adapted for insertion into and  
3 removal from an operative position in said chamber supported on said ledge, said magazine  
4 comprising a generally rectangular plate having an undercut edge bordering an inner region,  
5 said edge being configured to be supported on said ledge, and said inner region having an  
6 array of through openings for vertically receiving and retaining pipette tips, said plate being  
7 molded from a polycarbonate resin filled with glass fiber and having an inherent stiffness such  
8 that when supported on said ledge, a downward force of up to about 1000 Newtons applied to  
9 the inner region will produce a downward deflection of said plate at the point of force  
10 application of not more than 0.51mm.

C3  
1            2.        (Amended) The pipette tip magazine of claim 1, wherein the amount of said  
2 glass fiber is approximately 20 to 40% by weight of said polycarbonate resin.

1 335 (Amended) The pipette tip magazine of claim 1, wherein the area of said  
2 undercut edge is between 10 to 15% of the total area of said plate.

1 149 (Amended) The pipette tip magazine of claim 1 further comprising  
2 downwardly protruding bosses on the underside thereof, said bosses being configured and  
3 dimensioned to accommodate stacking of said magazines when filled with pipette tips.

1 57 (Amended) The pipette tip magazine of claim 1, wherein said magazine has a  
2 flat upper surface.

Please add the following new claims 8 and 9:

1 68 (New) For use in an automated pipetting system having a pipetting chamber  
2 with a generally U-shaped ledge, a pipette tip magazine adapted for insertion into and removal  
3 from an operative position contained in said chamber and supported on said ledge, said  
4 magazine comprising a generally rectangular plate having an undercut edge bordering an inner  
5 region, said edge being configured to be supported on said ledge, and said inner region having  
6 an array of through openings for vertically receiving and retaining pipette tips, said plate being  
7 molded from a polymeric resin reinforced with a fibrous material.

1 76 (New) The pipette tip magazine of claim 8 wherein the amount of said fibrous  
2 material is approximately 20 to 40% by weight of said polymeric resin.